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Pentagon rushes defenses and advisers to Middle East

By TARA COPP and AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has sent military advisers, including a Marine Corps general versed in urban warfare, to Israel to aid in its war planning and is speeding multiple sophisticated air defense systems to the Middle East days ahead of an anticipated ground assault into Gaza. One of the officers leading the assistance is Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Glynn, who previously helped lead special operations forces against the Islamic State and served in Fallujah, Iraq, during some of the most heated urban combat there, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss Glynn's role and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Glynn will also be advising on how to mitigate civilian casualties in urban warfare, the official said.

Israel is preparing a large-scale ground operation in an environment in which Hamas militants have had years to prepare tunnel networks and set traps throughout northern Gaza's dense urban blocks. Glynn and the other military officers who are advising Israel "have experience that is appropriate to the sorts of operations that Israel is conducting," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Monday. The advisers will not be engaged in the fighting, the unidentified U.S. official said.

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Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023.

Associated Press
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Pentagon rushes defenses and advisers to Middle East

Continued from Front

The military team is one of many fast-moving pieces the Pentagon is getting in place to try and prevent the already intense conflict between Israel and Hamas from becoming a wider war. It also is trying to protect U.S. personnel, who in the last few days have come under repeated attacks that the Pentagon has said were likely endorsed by Iran.

Kirby said Iran was "in some cases actively facilitating these attacks and spurring on others who may want to exploit the conflict for their own good, or for that of Iran. We know that Iran's goal is to maintain some level of deniability here. But we're not going to allow them to do that."

On Monday, the U.S. military garrison at an-Tanf, Syria, came under attack again, this time by two drones. The drones were shot down and no injuries were reported. It was the latest episode of more than a half-dozen times in the last week that U.S. military locations in the Middle East had come under rocket or drone attack since a deadly blast at a Gaza hospital. Last Thursday the destroyer USS Carney shot down



This image provided by the U.S. Marine Corps shows U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Glynn speaking during the Wounded Warrior Regiment change of command at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., July 14, 2023.

four land-attack cruise missiles launched from Yemen that the Pentagon has said were potentially headed toward Israel. In response, over the weekend the Pentagon announced it was sending multiple Patriot missile defense system battalions and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system to the Middle East, as well as repositioning the Eisenhower strike group to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The

ship had previously been en route to the Eastern Mediterranean. The shift means that the Navy will have a carrier strike group off the shore of Israel — the Ford carrier strike group — and another, the Eisenhower, potentially maneuvered to defend U.S. forces and Israel from the Red Sea or the Gulf of Oman.

"We're going to continue to do what we need to do to protect and safeguard our forces and take all nec-

essary measures," Ryder said. "No one wants to see a wider regional conflict. But we will not hesitate to protect our forces."

The U.S. has also advised Israeli officials to consider a delay in any ground assault, saying it would give more time to allow the U.S. to work with its regional partners to release more hostages, according to a U.S. official familiar with Biden administration thinking on the matter. The official,

Associated Press

who requested anonymity to discuss the private discussions, said it was unclear how much the argument will "move the needle" on Israeli thinking. The official noted that with the help of Qatar mediating with Hamas, the U.S. was able to win the release of two captives, Judith and Natalie Raanan. The process that led to their release — just two of more than 200 people in Israel who were taken hostage in the Oct. 7 attacks — started soon after the Hamas operation. The official noted arranging for the release of the Raanans took longer to come together than many people realized. Asked during a brief exchange with reporters at the White House on Monday if the U.S. would be supportive of a ceasefire-for-hostage deal, President Joe Biden replied, "We should have those hostages released and then we can talk."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday that Hamas had released two more hostages. They were identified by Israeli media as Yocheved Lifshitz and Nurit Cooper of the Israeli kibbutz of Nir Oz. Glynn's assignment to Israel was first reported by Axios. □



President Joe Biden walks to the podium during an event on the economy in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Monday designated 31 technology hubs spread across 32 states and Puerto

Rico to help spur innovation and create jobs in the industries that are concentrated in these areas. "We're going to invest in critical technologies like biotechnology, critical ma-

Biden names technology hubs for 32 states and Puerto Rico to help the industry and create jobs

terials, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing — so the U.S. will lead the world again in innovation across the board," President Joe Biden said. "I truly believe this country is about to take off."

The tech hubs are the result of a process that the Commerce Department launched in May to distribute a total of \$500 million in grants to cities.

The \$500 million came from a \$10 billion authorization in last year's CHIPS and Science Act to stimulate investments in new technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotech. It's an

attempt to expand tech investment that is largely concentrated around a few U.S. cities — Austin, Texas; Boston; New York; San Francisco; and Seattle — to the rest of the country.

"I have to say, in my entire career in public service, I have never seen as much interest in any initiative than this one," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told reporters during a Sunday conference call to preview the announcement. Her department received 400 applications, she said.

"No matter where I go or who I meet with — CEOs, governors, senators, congresspeople, university

presidents — everyone wants to tell me about their application and how excited they are," said Raimondo.

The program, formally the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program, ties into the president's economic argument that people should be able to find good jobs where they live and that opportunity should be spread across the country, rather than be concentrated. The White House has sought to elevate that message and highlight Biden's related policies as the Democratic president undertakes his 2024 reelection bid. □

It's Day 20 with no House speaker, and lower-level names seek Trump's support and race for the gavel

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Day 20 without a House speaker, Republicans found themselves starting over on Monday bumbling ahead with few ideas about who will lead, what they are fighting over and when they will get Congress working again.

Nine lower-level Republican lawmakers are now running to be speaker, leader of the House and second in line to the presidency none with any clear shot for the gavel. Senior-most among the hopefuls is Rep. Tom Emmer of Minnesota, who is disliked by Donald Trump, but who reached out to the former president as did others.

"They all called asking for support," said Trump, the Republican frontrunner in the 2024 presidential race who was in New Hampshire registering for the state's primary ballot.

Of Emmer, Trump said: "I think he's my biggest fan now because he called me yesterday and told me I'm



Rep. David Joyce, R-Ohio, upper left, confers with House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., as Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, center, and former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., far right, tabulate votes as Republicans failed to elect Jordan as speaker, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

your biggest fan." Trump downplayed, even derided, Emmer, the third-ranking House Republican, while presenting himself as a kingmaker who talks to "a lot of congressmen" seeking his stamp of approval. "There's only one person who can do it all the way: Jesus Christ," he declared.

Late Monday, House Republicans were retreating behind closed doors, as they have most days since the ouster of Kevin McCarthy, to hear from the candidates ahead of internal party voting. McCarthy himself calls the whole spectacle "embarrassing" for the House Republicans

whose majority is being wasted away and for the U.S. government that cannot fully function. What started as swaggering bravado when a contingent of hardline Republicans led by Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida ousted McCarthy at the start of the month has morphed into

a full-blown crisis of governing as dysfunction and dangerous, bitter infighting prevent the normal operations of Congress.

The federal government again risks a shutdown in a matter of weeks if Congress fails to pass funding legislation by a Nov. 17 deadline to keep services and offices running. And more immediately, President Joe Biden has asked Congress to provide \$105 billion in aid to Israel and Ukraine amid the overseas wars and to shore up the U.S. border with Mexico.

Federal aviation and farming programs face expiration without action. Yet factional power plays are running stronger on Capitol Hill than any sense of urgency to resolve the standoff as the House Republicans are essentially eating their own first by ousting McCarthy just nine months on the job, then rejecting the next nominees to take his place, Majority Leader Steve Scalise and hard-edged Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan.□

Former NSA worker pleads guilty to trying to sell U.S. secrets to Russia

By COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A former National Security Agency employee from Colorado pleaded guilty Monday to trying to sell classified information to Russia.

Federal prosecutors agreed to not ask for more than about 22 years in prison for Jareh Sebastian Dalke when he is sentenced in April, but the judge will ultimately decide the punishment.

Dalke, a 31-year-old Army veteran from Colorado Springs, had faced a possible life sentence for giving the information to an undercover FBI agent who prosecutors say Dalke believed was a Russian agent. Dalke pleaded guilty during a hearing before U.S.

District Judge Raymond Moore. He only spoke in answer to questions from Moore about whether he understood the terms of the deal. He acknowledged that he has been taking medications for mental illness while being held in custody for about a year.

Dalke was arrested on Sept. 28, 2022, after authorities say he arrived at Denver's downtown train station with a laptop and used a secure connection set up by investigators to transfer some classified documents.

According to the indictment, the information Dalke sought to give Russia included a threat assessment of the military offensive capabilities of a third, unnamed country. It also includes a description of

sensitive U.S. defense capabilities, some of which relates to that same foreign country. He allegedly told the undercover agent that he had \$237,000 in debts and that he decided to work with Russia because his heritage "ties back to your country."

Before Dalke transferred the classified information, he sent a thank you letter that opened and closed in Russian and in which he said he looked "forward to our friendship and shared benefit," according to court filings.

Dalke worked as an information systems security designer for the NSA, the U.S. intelligence agency that collects and analyzes signals from foreign and domestic sources for the



A sign stands outside the National Security Agency (NSA) campus, June 6, 2013, in Fort Meade, Md.

Associated Press

purpose of intelligence and counterintelligence. After he left and gave the classified information to the undercover agent, prosecutors say he reapplied to work at the NSA.

During a hearing last year, Dalke's federal public defender downplayed Dalke's access to classified information since he only worked at the NSA for less than a month.□

An off-duty pilot is accused of trying to shut down the engines of a Horizon Air jet in midflight

By DAVID KOENIG and CLAIRE RUSH

Associated Press

PORLAND, Ore. (AP) — An off-duty pilot riding in the extra seat in the cockpit of a Horizon Air passenger jet tried to shut down the engines in midflight and had to be subdued by the crew, according to a pilot flying the plane.

Authorities in Oregon identified the man as Joseph David Emerson, 44. He was being held Monday on 83 counts each of attempted murder and reckless endangerment and one count of endangering an aircraft, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

The San Francisco-bound flight on Sunday diverted to Portland, Oregon, where it was met by officers from the Port of Portland, who took Emerson into custody. Seattle-based Alaska Airlines, which owns Horizon, a regional carrier, did not name Emerson, but said Monday that the threat was posed by one of its pilot who was off duty but authorized to occupy the cockpit jump seat.

The airline said the cap-



A worker cleans a jet bridge at Paine Field in Everett, Wash., before passengers board an Alaska Airlines flight on March 4, 2019.

tain and co-pilot reacted quickly, "engine power was not lost and the crew secured the aircraft without incident."

Alaska said in a statement that no weapons were involved.

One of the pilots told air traffic controllers that the man who posed the threat had been removed from the cockpit.

"We've got the guy that tried to shut the engines down out of the cockpit. And he doesn't sound like he's causing any issue in the back right now, and I think he's subdued," one of the pilots said on audio captured by LiveATC.net. "Other than that, we want law enforcement as soon as we get on the ground and parked."

The FBI office in Portland said it was investigating "and can assure the traveling public there is no continuing threat related to this incident."

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was helping law enforcement investigations, but declined further comment about the incident.

FAA records indicate that

Associated Press

Emerson has a valid license to fly airline planes. The Associated Press tried to reach his family members but was unsuccessful. The Multnomah County sheriff's office, district attorney's office and public defender's office did not immediately respond to inquiries about whether Emerson had an attorney to comment on his behalf.

The FAA, in an alert to airlines, said a jump-seat passenger tried to disable the engines by deploying the engine fire-suppression system.

"It is not hard to activate the fire handles you want them to be accessible in case of an engine fire," said John Cox, a retired airline pilot and now a safety consultant. He said it is possible to restart the engines once the fire handles are returned to their normal position.

"This is an extremely rare event. In 53 years, I have never heard of a jump-seat rider attempting to shut down engines," Cox said. He said the third pilot can be invaluable in cases where a crew must deal with a complex situation. □

U.S. Forest Service sued over flooding deaths in the wake of New Mexico's largest recorded wildfire

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Relatives of three people who died last year in a flash flood stemming from

the largest wildfire in New Mexico's recorded history are suing the U.S. Forest Service.



Fire rages near the Taos County line as firefighters converge on northern New Mexico to battle the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, May 13, 2022.

Associated Press

The wrongful death lawsuit filed earlier this month alleges the Forest Service was negligent in the management of the prescribed burn and also failed to close roads and prevent access to areas at risk for flooding that followed the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

The three West Texas residents were staying at a family cabin in northern New Mexico in July 2022 when monsoon rains hit the burn scar near Tecolote Creek. That created a flash flood that swept the three victims to their deaths.

According to the Albuquerque Journal, the lawsuit also contends that the

Forest Service failed to provide adequate warnings to the victims about the dangers caused by the wildfire and the dangers of potential flooding in the area.

Neither the Forest Service nor its parent agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has formally responded to the lawsuit so far.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture didn't provide a settlement offer or denial of claims initially filed in the case earlier this year, according to the lawsuit.

The blaze burned more than 533 square miles (1,380 square kilometers) in San Miguel, Mora and Taos counties. Authorities said an improperly extin-

guished pile burn operation rekindled and merged with another prescribed fire that went awry, destroying about 900 structures, including several hundred homes. No deaths were reported while the fire raged for months.

Congress set aside nearly \$4 billion to compensate victims. FEMA has said its claims office has paid more than \$101 million so far for losses, but many families have complained that the federal government is not acknowledging the extent of the damage or the emotional toll the fire has had on families whose ties to the land go back generations. □

Pakistan's Imran Khan could face the death sentence in trial over revealing state secrets

By MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani court on Monday indicted Imran Khan on charges of revealing official secrets after his 2022 ouster from office in another dramatic move against the former prime minister who could now face a possible death sentence and will likely be unable to run in parliamentary elections in January.

Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a close aide and the deputy leader of Khan's opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, will go on trial this week at a high-security prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. The charge of revealing state secrets carries a sentence ranging from life in prison to the death penalty, according to Umair Niazi, one of Khan's defense lawyers. Niazi, however, said he was confident Khan and Qureshi would be acquitted as they had done "nothing wrong."

The trial starts on Friday and both Khan and Qureshi have denied the charges against them. The hearings will take place before a special court behind



Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan listens to a member of the media during a talk with reporters regarding the current political situation and the ongoing cases against him at his residence in Lahore, Pakistan, on Aug. 3, 2023.

Associated Press

closed doors at the Adiyala Prison, where Khan is being held. Khan's lawyers have objected to the closed-door trial.

The case is related to Khan's speech and waving of a confidential diplomatic letter at a rally after his ouster in a no-confidence vote in parliament in 2022. The document dubbed Ci-

pher has not been made public by either the government or Khan's lawyers but was apparently diplomatic correspondence between the Pakistani ambassador to Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

At the time, Khan held up the alleged letter, claiming it was proof that he was

being threatened and that his ouster was a U.S. conspiracy, allegedly executed by the military and the government in Pakistan. Washington and Pakistani officials have denied the claim.

Another defense lawyer for Khan, Naeem Panjutha, claimed on Monday that the former premier and

Qureshi were "indicted in a hurry" with the intention of convicting the popular opposition leader quickly. Khan is facing more than 150 cases, including charges from contempt of court to terrorism and inciting violence, and was sentenced to three years for corruption in early August. Subsequently, an Islamabad High Court suspended that sentence in what amounted to a legal victory for Khan. The victory was short-lived as he was re-arrested later in August in the Cipher case. For now, Khan is not eligible to run for office in the January elections on two counts. He would have to be cleared of corruption charges in the graft case and secondly, the Cipher case charges would have to be either dropped or he would also be cleared of them.

Panjutha, Khan's lawyer, said in a video statement to reporters Monday that his client is being denied a fair trial.

Over the weekend, Khan's main political rival and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan, ending his four years of self-imposed exile in London. □

Turkey's president submits protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO to parliament for ratification

By SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has submitted a protocol for Sweden's admission into NATO to Turkey's parliament for ratification, his office said Monday, bringing the Nordic country a step closer to membership in the military alliance.

Erdogan had been delaying ratification of Sweden's membership, accusing Stockholm of being too soft on Kurdish militants and other groups his country considers to be security threats. Turkey also was angered by a series of Quran-

burning protests in Sweden. All 31 NATO allies must en-

dorse Sweden's membership.

Turkey and Hungary are the only two allies that have yet to ratify it.

A brief statement from the presidential communications directorate said Erdogan had signed the protocol on Sweden's NATO accession, which was then submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. It was not known when Sweden's membership would come to the floor. Sweden welcomed the move.

"Glad to hear that Turkish President Erdogan has now handed over the ratification documents to the Turkish Parliament," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waits for the start of a round table meeting of the North Atlantic Council during a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 11, 2023.

Associated Press

wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

"Now it remains for Parliament to deal with the issue. We look forward to becoming a member of NATO."

Sweden and its neighbor Finland abandoned decades of military nonalignment and sought protection under NATO's security umbrella after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022. Finland joined the military alliance in April after Turkey lifted its objections to its membership, saying Helsinki had taken steps to address Ankara's security concerns. □

IAEA officials say Fukushima's ongoing discharge of treated radioactive wastewater is going well

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant said the discharge of the second batch of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea ended as planned on Monday, and International Atomic Energy Agency officials in Japan for their first safety and monitoring mission since the release began two months ago said "no issues" were observed. Fukushima Daiichi started releasing treated and diluted radioactive wastewater into the sea on Aug. 24. The operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, said the release of a second, 7,800-ton batch of treated wastewater was completed, with its daily seawater sampling results fully meeting safety standards.

A magnitude 9.0 quake on March 11, 2011, triggered a massive tsunami that destroyed the plant's power supply and cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and spew large amounts of radiation. Highly contaminated cooling water applied to the dam-



Lydie Evrard, right, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Deputy Director General and head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security and Gustavo Caruso, Director and Coordinator for the ALPS Safety Review of IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, prepare to attend a press conference at the Foreign Press Center Japan Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, in Tokyo

Associated Press

aged reactors has leaked continuously into building basements and mixed with groundwater.

The release of treated wastewater is expected to continue for decades. It has been strongly opposed by fishing groups and neighboring countries including South Korea,

where hundreds of people have protested. China banned all imports of Japanese seafood the day the release began, badly hurting Japanese seafood producers, processors and exporters. Russia recently joined China in the trade restrictions.

"I would say that the first

two batches of releases went well. No issues were observed," Lydie Evrard, IAEA deputy director general and head of the department of nuclear safety and security, told a Tokyo news conference. She said she visited Fukushima Daiichi on Friday for a firsthand look.

Evrard's visit came on the heels of a marine sampling mission by another IAEA team that included scientists from China, South Korea and Canada. She said all participants in that mission said their activity went well.

She did not say whether Chinese scientists acknowledged the safety of the release.

She said China has been involved in the IAEA safety task force since the beginning of the review that began two years ago and has participated in corroboration activities. The IAEA is aware of China's concern and engaged with its authorities, Evrard said. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in his policy speech Monday, renewed his call for China to immediately lift its ban on Japanese seafood imports.

During the Oct. 16-23 visit, the IAEA sampling team collected seawater, sediment and fish from near the plant and visited a marine laboratory near Tokyo that makes fish specimens for radiation analysis by institutions in and outside Japan, including the IAEA. □

Sydney court postpones extradition hearing of former U.S. military pilot until May

SYDNEY (AP) — A Sydney court on Monday postponed an extradition hear-

ing for a former U.S. military pilot accused of illegally training Chinese aviators



In this undated photo provided by Saffrine Duggan, her husband Dan Duggan poses for a photo in a restaurant.

Associated Press

until May as his lawyers attempt to further build their case.

Boston-born Dan Duggan, 55, was scheduled to fight his extradition to the United States at a Nov. 23 hearing in the downtown Downing Center Local Court.

But a magistrate decided to use that date to rule on what additional information that the Australian defense department and security agencies should provide defense lawyers.

U.S. lawyer Trent Glover told the court the United States was ready to proceed with the extradition, but had agreed with de-

fense lawyers the hearing should take place after November.

Duggan's lawyer, Dennis Miralis, told reporters outside court that the stakes were high for his client, who faces up to 65 years in prison if convicted.

"This is existential, which means that every right that Dan has under the Australian legal system on the basis that he's presumed innocent ... needs to properly and carefully be considered," Miralis said.

Duggan's wife, Saffrine, has said she asked Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to advocate

against the extradition when he meets President Joe Biden in Washington this week.

But in a news conference on Sunday before departing for the United States, Albanese said Duggan, who became an Australian citizen in 2012, was not on the agenda of his meetings with U.S. officials.

"I don't discuss things that are legal matters on the run, nor should I," Albanese told reporters.

Duggan has been in custody since Oct. 21 last year when he was arrested near his home in Orange, New South Wales. □

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now



(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural (Literary History of

Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary

sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



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Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each

offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Monday to Friday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com. □



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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Lisa and Paul Mulzoff** who are visiting us from New York, USA

She wrote to us saying: Aruba to me is.. Our first trip to Aruba and the memories we started here



together 30 years ago on our Honeymoon. We have been back several times throughout the years celebrating both birthdays and anniversaries along with several milestones.

This year we came back to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary on October 16th, our re-



cent retirements and move to St. James North Carolina. We look forward to coming back soon."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might

want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery

in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown,

or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

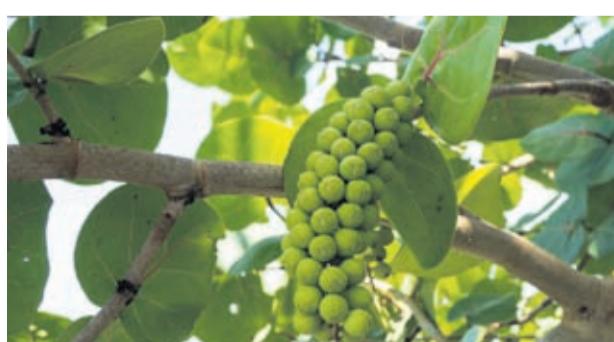
This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations are just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

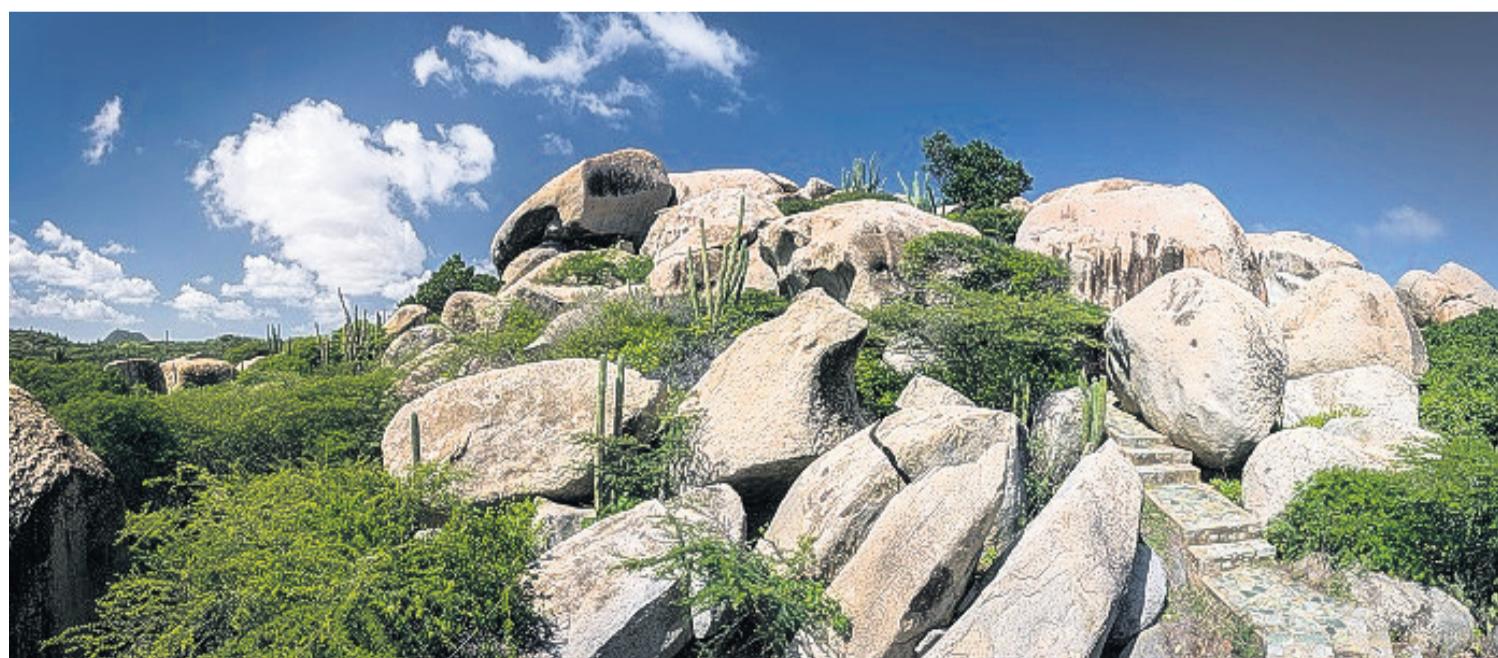
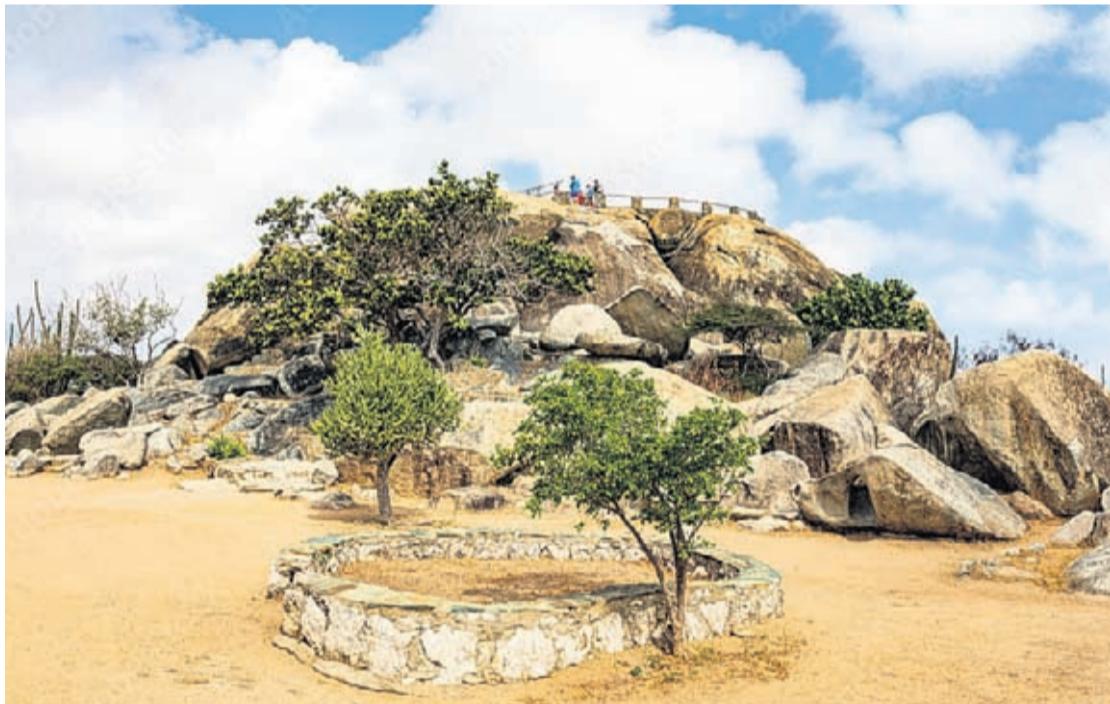
The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge.

The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors.

The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breathtaking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible



—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder.

For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!□

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

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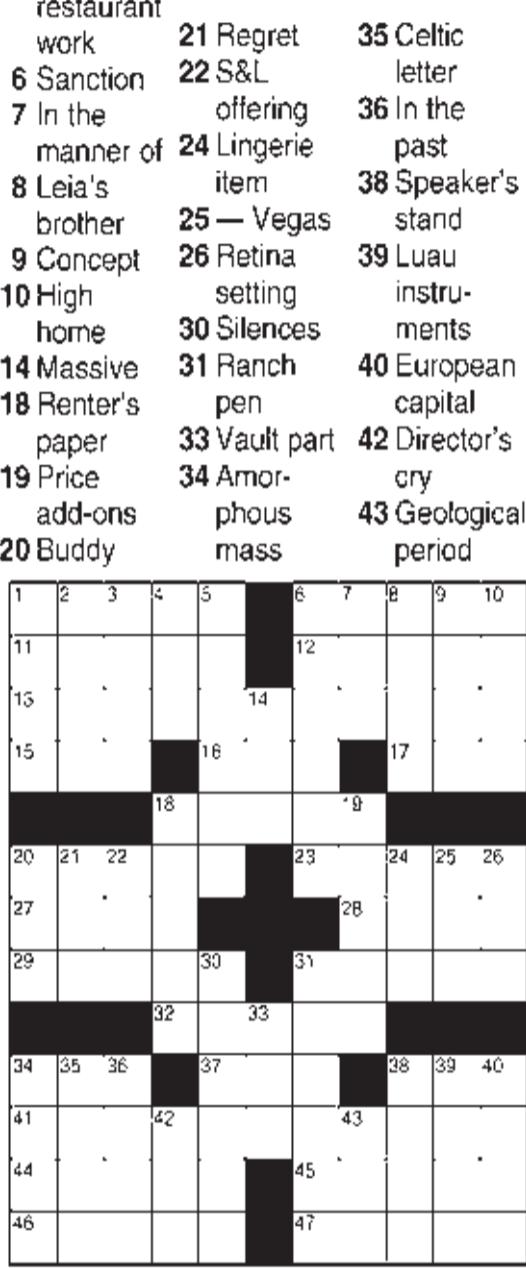
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47 Rodeo

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Yesterday's answer



10-24

A X Y D I L B A A X R
is L O N G E F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

K T O O L T F O Q C F F L P M T N Z B M

O L T T M R B X J B N C C B Q R .

— D.C.C. O B K I P T M . " X T K K B A F L P Z

B X O I T C P M Y "

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I CANNOT ENDURE TO
WASTE ANYTHING SO PRECIOUS AS AUTUMNAL
SUNSHINE BY STAYING IN THE HOUSE. —
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Chevron buys Hess for \$53 billion, 2nd megadeal in the oil patch this month as energy prices soar



A Chevron logo rests on the gas dispenser at a gas station in Columbus, Miss., Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Chevron is buying Hess Corp. for \$53 billion and it's not even the biggest acquisition in the energy sector this month as major producers seize the initiative while oil prices surge. Crude prices rose sharply in early 2022 with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and are hovering around \$90 per barrel after ticking another 9% higher this year. That has made big drillers cash rich and they are looking for places to invest.

The Chevron-Hess deal comes less than two weeks after Exxon Mobil said that it would acquire Pioneer Natural Resources for about \$60 billion.

Upward pressure on oil prices are being applied from a number of fronts including the war in Ukraine. Oil markets are being stretched by cutbacks in oil production from Saudi Arabia and Russia, and now, a war between Israel and Hamas runs the risk of igniting a broader conflict in the Middle East. While attacks on Israel do not disrupt global oil supply, according to an analysis by the U.S. Energy Information

Administration, "they raise the potential for oil supply disruptions and higher oil prices."

Chevron said Monday that the acquisition of Hess adds a major oil field in Guyana as well as shale properties in the Bakken Formation in North Dakota. Guyana is a South American country of 791,000 people that is poised to become the world's fourth-largest offshore oil producer, placing it ahead of Qatar, the United States, Mexico and Norway. It has become a major producer in recent years with oil giants, including Exxon Mobil, China's CNOOC, and also Hess, squared off in a heated competition for highly lucrative oil fields in northern South America.

"This combination is aligned with our objective to safely deliver higher returns and lower carbon," Chevron Chairman and CEO Mike Wirth said in prepared remarks. "In addition, Hess increases Chevron's estimated production and free cash flow growth rates over the next five years, and is expected to extend our growth profile into the next decade supporting our

plans to increase our peer-leading dividend growth and share repurchases."

Chevron is paying for Hess with stock.

Hess shareholders will receive 1.0250 shares of Chevron for each Hess share.

Including debt, Chevron valued the deal at \$60 billion.

And even with alarms being raised over climate change after a summer of record-smashing temperatures, elevated energy prices have driven more exploration and more drilling, and big payouts for investors.

There have been a number of acquisitions focused on U.S. shale fields and another round of consolidation in the energy sector began during the pandemic as big producers sought to cut costs. In the summer of 2020, Chevron announced that it was buying Noble Energy for \$5 billion. Chevron made the deal when crude prices were down more than 30% in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. That same year, ConocoPhillips bought shale producer Concho Resources in an all-stock deal valued at \$9.7 billion.

Last month Britain gave the go-ahead for a major oil and gas project in the North Sea, ignoring warnings from scientists and the United Nations that countries must stop developing new fossil fuel resources if the world is to avoid catastrophic climate change. Chevron said the deal will help to increase the amount of cash given back to shareholders. The company anticipates that in January it will be able to recommend boosting its first-quarter dividend by 8% to \$1.63. This would still need board approval. The company also expects to increase stock buybacks by \$2.5 billion to the top end of its guidance range of \$20 billion per year once the transaction closes. □

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Even with carbon emissions cuts, a key part of Antarctica is doomed to slow collapse, study says



This 2020 photo provided by the British Antarctic Survey shows the Thwaites glacier in Antarctica.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

No matter how much the world cuts back on carbon emissions, a key and sizable chunk of Antarctica is essentially doomed to an "unavoidable" melt, a new study found.

Though the full melt will take hundreds of years, slowly adding nearly 6 feet (1.8 meters) to sea levels, it will be enough to reshape where and how people live in the future, the study's lead author said.

Researchers used computer simulations to calculate future melting of protective ice shelves jutting over Antarctica's Amundsen Sea in western Antarctica. The study in Monday's journal Nature Climate Change found even if future warming was limited to just a few tenths of a de-

gree more an international goal that many scientists say is unlikely to be met it would have "limited power to prevent ocean warming that could lead to the collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet."

"Our main question here was: How much control do we still have over ice shelf melting? How much melting can still be prevented by reducing emissions?" said study lead author Kaitlin Naughten, an oceanographer at the British Antarctic Survey. "Unfortunately, it's not great news. Our simulations suggest that we are now committed to the rapid increase in the rate of ocean warming and ice shelf melting over the rest of the century."

While past studies have talked about how dire the situation is, Naughten was

the first to use computer simulations to study the key melting component of warm water melting ice from below, and the work looked at four different scenarios for how much carbon dioxide the world pumps into the atmosphere. In each case, ocean warming was just too much for this section of the ice sheet to survive, the study found.

Naughten looked at melting gatekeeper ice shelves, which float over the ocean in this area of Antarctica that is already below sea level. Once these ice shelves melt, there's nothing to stop the glaciers behind them from flowing into the sea. Naughten specifically looked at what would happen if somehow future warming was limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over mid-19th century levels the international goal and

found the runaway melting process anyway. The world has already warmed about 1.2 degrees Celsius (nearly 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times and much of this summer temporarily shot past the 1.5 mark.□

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Exhibits and collectors editions mark 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, rare originals are being displayed and publishers are offering collectors editions of Shakespeare's plays, including one that sells for \$1,500.

Scholars believe that between 200-300 copies still survive from the late 1623 release of "Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies." Presided over by two friends and former colleagues of Shakespeare, who had died in 1616, the Folio ensured that lasting texts existed for "Macbeth," "Twelfth Night" and other cornerstones of Western literature. In Shakespeare's lifetime, many of his works were unpublished or available only in cheap paperback editions.

"Without the First Folio we would have lost a world of words," Gregory Doran, artistic director emeritus of the Royal Shakespeare Company, writes in the introduction to "The Complete Plays" of Shakespeare, a new publication.

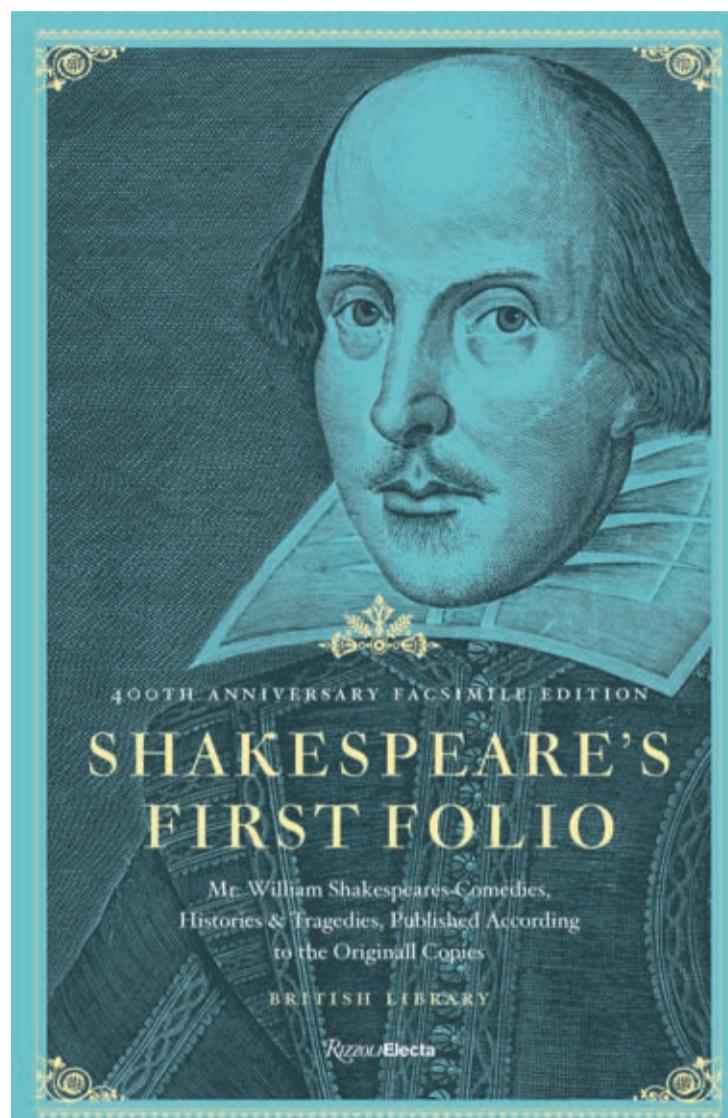
First folios have been on exhibit everywhere from the

British Museum to the New York Public Library and at least two major book projects will mark the anniversary.

The British Museum is collaborating with Rizzoli Books in New York on "Shakespeare's First Folio: 400th Anniversary Facsimile Edition," contained within a slipcase cover. With a list price of \$150, the book is 928 pages and includes an introductory booklet co-written by Adrian Edwards, head curator of the British Library's Printed Heritage Collections.

The most ambitious, and exclusive project, is "The Complete Plays," a limited edition from the Folio Society, an employee-owned company in London that puts out customized volumes ranging from "Beowulf" to George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series. The Society has printed just 1,000 copies of the 3-volume box set, with a list price of \$1,500. Besides Doran's introduction, the Folio Society release includes a foreword by Dame Judi Dench. Each set is hand-numbered by illustrator Neil Packer.

More than three-quarters of "The Complete Plays" have



This cover image released by Rizzoli shows "Shakespeare's First Folio: 400th Anniversary Facsimile Edition: Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies, Published According to the Originall Copies."

Associated Press

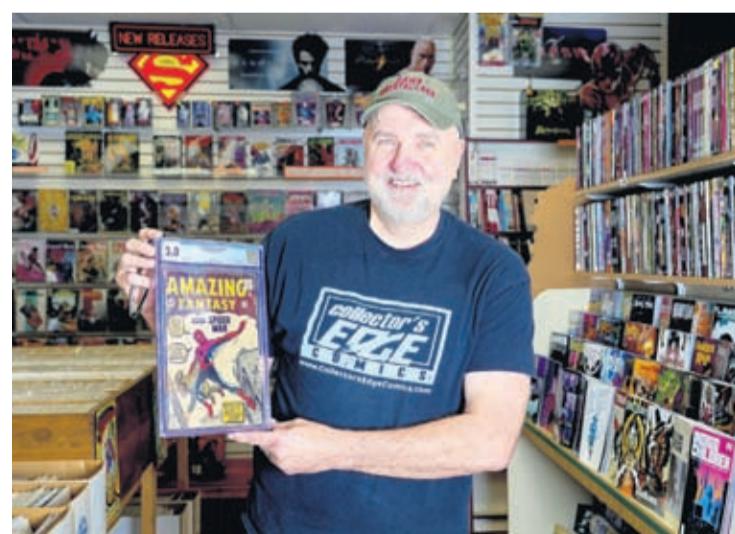
already sold, according to the publisher. "In an era when everything seems disposable, I feel

like there's a good market for fine editions of classic books," says Folio Society publishing director Tom Walker.

The First Folio was daring, even audacious for its time, when such publications were "reserved for learned treatises, hefty genealogical texts, books of religious or historiographical importance, or even works by monarchs," according to Shakespeare scholar Chris Laoutaris. Before Shakespeare the only playwright known to have been so honored was his contemporary Ben Jonson, who honored himself by overseeing "The Workes of Benjamin Jonson" in 1616. While the British Museum edition is relatively affordable, the Folio Society's production is closer to the intended market for the original release.

"Only those with deep pockets, and the space to read them, could afford such luxurious products," says Laoutaris, an associate professor at the Shakespeare Institute in the playwright's native Stratford-On-Avon and author of "Shakespeare's Book: The Intertwined Lives Behind the First Folio," which came out this year. □

Milwaukee comic shop looking to sell copy of first appearance of Spider-Man, book could go for \$35K



Steve Dobrzynski, owner of Collector's Edge Comics, holds an Amazing Fantasy #15 Marvel comic which is the first appearance of the Amazing Spider-Man on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Milwaukee comic book shop is looking to sell a rare copy of the first appearance of Spider-Man.

Collector's Edge has acquired a copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15, the Journal Sentinel reported. The comic book, written by Marvel Comics icon Stan Lee and published in 1962, tells the story of how Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, gained amazing powers and learns that with great power comes great responsibility.

The shop's owner, Steve Dobrzynski, first posted photos of the book on social

media last Tuesday. He told the Journal Sentinel a couple found the book among a dead relative's possessions and brought it to him for help selling it. He did not name the couple.

A near-perfect copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15 sold for \$3.6 million at auction in Texas in 2021. The Collector's Edge copy is worn and the edges have small tears.

Dobrzynski sent it to the Certified Guaranty Company, a Florida-based comics and collectibles grading service. The service rated the book at 3.0 on a scale of 0.5 to 10, with 0.5 being

very bad condition and 10 being perfect condition. Dobrzynski said the book could fetch as much as \$35,000.

"It depends, if you put it up at auction, who's bidding on it," he said. "If nobody's bidding on it, it's obviously going to sell for a bit less."

Dobrzynski contacted some regular customers to give them a shot at buying the book before making it public, but he hasn't gotten a yes or no from any of them yet.

"They're thinking about it, but I can only wait so long for people to think about it," Dobrzynski said. □

NBA season set to begin with ring night in Denver, and a slew of challengers for title

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Damian Lillard went to Milwaukee, Bradley Beal went to Phoenix, Jrue Holiday ended up in Boston and Chris Paul ended up with Golden State. Victor Wembanyama arrived in San Antonio, Nick Nurse took over in Philadelphia and LeBron James is now the oldest player in the league. As always, the NBA is opening a new season with new looks.

The Denver Nuggets are hoping this season doesn't end with another new champion.

The NBA's 78th season starts Tuesday, with a ring ceremony in Denver the traditional celebration of the reigning champions highlighting the opening-night celebration. The Nuggets beat Miami last June to become the league's fifth different champion in the last five years, a run of parity the likes of which the league hasn't seen in more than 40 years.

"We've gone from being a team that's hunting the teams in front of us to now we're going to be the hunted," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "And hopefully our guys understand the responsibility that comes with being a defending champion. There can be no off nights, because we're getting everybody's best 82 times this



Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic applauds on the bench during the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023.

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year." The last five winners: Toronto, the Los Angeles Lakers, Milwaukee, Golden State and Denver. The last time there was a five-season stretch with no duplicate champion was 1977 through 1981, and it was a very different NBA back then.

For context on what the league was like in those five years: Seattle had a team, Washington was the Bullets, the 3-point line didn't exist when that run started, the league had 22 or 23 teams instead of its current 30, the Nets played in New Jersey, the Jazz were wrapping up their New Orleans run, the Kings played in Kansas

City, the Clippers played in San Diego and four players were the top earners at exactly \$1 million a year each. "There's still the elite teams: Denver, Milwaukee, Boston," Charlotte coach Steve Clifford said. "But there's a lot of really, really good teams that if they evolve the right way, they can get there too."

The offseason included several major transactions. Lillard's quest to get traded to Miami wound up with him getting traded to Milwaukee and instantly forming a championship-caliber duo with Giannis Antetokounmpo. Beal got traded to the Suns, forming

the newest Big 3 alongside Kevin Durant and Devin Booker. The Lillard and Beal moves led to others Holiday eventually joining Boston, Paul eventually joining Golden State. Everybody is chasing the ring. Which means, for now, everybody is chasing the Nuggets.

"I just know when you have a team that can be one of those teams that's going to compete for a title," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And we have one of those teams."

For the first time, there are two titles for teams to go after this season.

The In-Season Tournament something Commissioner

Adam Silver wanted for years is now a reality. It starts on Nov. 3 with group play, and ends with a Final Four in Las Vegas on Dec. 7 and 9. The winner gets the NBA Cup and around \$18 million in prize money will be awarded, with \$500,000 going to each player on the winning team.

"Anything that's going to create higher quality basketball, better competition, more intensity and more fan engagement is a great growth opportunity for us," said Evan Wasch, the NBA's executive vice president of basketball strategy.

CJ McCollum, the president of the National Basketball Players Association, knows there are skeptics. He points out that there also were skeptics when the NBA added the play-in tournament which has turned out to be a massive success and ratings bonanza.

"It makes November and December not so gloomy," McCollum said of the in-season event. "And it gives people a chance to go to Vegas and compete at a high level on television for a chance to make more money. So, you have all these incentives in place, along with the fact that the season is so long, you have to figure out ways to continue to make it entertaining. This is a way to accomplish that." □

Titans trade 2-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard to Eagles, AP source says

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —
The Tennessee Titans on Monday traded two-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard to the Philadelphia Eagles for a pair of draft picks and safety Terrell Edmunds, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The Titans will receive the Eagles' fifth and sixth-round draft picks in 2024, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condi-

tion of anonymity because the trade has not been announced.

Byard has 27 interceptions since becoming a starter in 2017. This deal fills a big need for the Eagles (6-1) who lost safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson to Detroit in free agency and are dealing with injuries in their secondary.

The 5-foot-11, 212-pound Byard was the first pick overall in the third round of 2016 and had been Tennessee's longest-tenured defensive

player. He has started 111 of his 120 games and has not missed a game because of injury.

The Titans (2-4) have lost 11 of their past 13 games going back to last season. Their new general manager Ran Carthon confirmed in April that he asked Byard, who turned 30 in August, to take a pay cut this offseason despite leading the Titans in both tackles and interceptions each of the past two seasons. □



Tennessee Titans safety Kevin Byard, center, tackles Baltimore Ravens running back Justice Hill (43) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023, at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium in London.

Associated Press

With only 1 race left before NASCAR's Championship 4 is set, drama awaits in Martinsville

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) —

There will surely be elaborate permutations to show all the possibilities of what awaits this coming weekend at Martinsville, when six drivers will battle for the final two spots in NASCAR's Championship 4.

If this guy does this, and this guy does this, or this guy doesn't do this ... the scenarios are endless.

So, perhaps a simpler mindset, like the one Denny Hamlin has right now, is the way to go.

"Try to win it," Hamlin said.

That would work, too.

NASCAR's season has entered its next-to-last week, and good luck figuring



Denny Hamlin (11) makes a pit stop during the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 in Homestead, Fla.

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out what might happen over the 500 laps around Martinsville's tight oval this

coming weekend. Only two of these six drivers Hamlin, William Byron, Ryan Blaney,

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Bell, Truex and Hamlin. "I don't think anything's a given ... but we do have a chance."

Bell knows exactly what the six hopefuls will be thinking this week. He won at Martinsville last year to earn his title shot in Phoenix. He got his walk-off win a week earlier this year.

"Your outlook for the race is completely different. ... Those guys have a lot more to race for than what I do now going into Martinsville, so the mentality is completely different for them than it is for me and you just have to be aware of that," Bell said.

Homestead showed, once again, that nobody ever has any idea what'll happen.

Bell was about to go a lap down and thought his car was one of the slowest in the race at one point Sunday. He was not thinking about winning until the final 10 laps. He was 13th in qualifying, ninth in the first stage, 22nd in the second stage and on top of all that, Homestead is not a track he's fond of.

And he won. A caution flag in the third stage gave him a chance, and he took full advantage.

"A whirlwind," Bell said, "for sure."

Larson's day at Homestead ended when he tried to evade Blaney entering pit road and instead crashed into the 11 barrels of sand that protect drivers from directly smashing into the wall separating that alley from the track itself. A few tons of dirt went everywhere, and Larson was literally out in a cloud of dust.

"I'm sorry," Larson — who took the blame for what happened — said into his radio. "I did not expect him to slow down that much."

Not long afterward, two of the JGR cars experienced their own misfortune. Hamlin's steering failed and he wound up in the wall, and moments later, something happened to Truex's engine and smoke came out the back of his car. □

Tyler Reddick, Martin Truex Jr. and Chris Buescher will emerge with a chance to battle Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell in Phoenix on Nov. 5 to win the Cup Series title.

If any of those six win at Martinsville, they'll have a shot at the title. Any other result, break out the calculators.

"It's nice coming in here as far out as we did and leaving where we're at," Blaney said after finishing second at Homestead-Miami on Sunday moving from seventh in the eight-driver playoff standings to fourth.

"Just proud of that effort and we've got to go and perform well. Hopefully we can go do it again in Martinsville."

Larson got his berth in the final by winning at Las Vegas, Bell got his by winning at Homestead. Byron by far is in the best position of the six remaining contenders; he's 30 points clear of the top-four cutoff going into Martinsville. Blaney is 10 points ahead of fifth.

Everyone else either needs to win which would be an automatic clinch for Phoenix or get help. Reddick is fifth, 10 points back of Blaney. Truex and Hamlin are both 17 points back and Buescher is 43 points off the pace.

"I think it's hard to get in the Final Four. I'll tell you that," said Joe Gibbs, the owner of three of the playoff cars